[Carta de Mons. Ximenes Belo ao Presidente da Conferencia Episcopal Holandesa]

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DIOECESIS DILI
TIMOR TIMUR
Av. Sa da Bandeira 25 - DILI - Tel. 2665

DILI, 4 th. December 1984

Nomor : 222/UDD/XII/84
Lamp. :
Perihal :

Most Reverend Mons. Dr. A. J. Simonis
President
Dutch Episcopal Conference

My best wishes!

It is only now that I am able to answer your letter of 27 th June, 1984 (No. 881/84he.).

Your Grace, I wish to express, personally and in the name of the whole Diocese of Dili, our deep gratitude for the support and solidarity you have shown to the Church and the People of East Timor. Last 1983, the military started once more their mop-up operations to exterminate the remaining forces of the Fretilim. Up to now, there has not been any victory on either side. On the other hand, the number of political prisioners keeps on increasing. The Dili jail has 210 political prisioners, 30 of whom have already been transferred to places outside the Island of Timor. The number of orphans, widows, and areas where there is extreme lack of food and medication is also on the increase.

The stand of the Church is not to get openly involved in politics, but to defend the basic human rights and the applications of social justice. The State Philosophy, the Pancasila, also upholds social justice.

We don't get involved in politics. All we want is that the words of Jonh Paul II concerning East Timor be put into practice; namely "respect for cultural, ethnic and religious identity of the People of East Timor".

Your Excellency, we ask that the Catholics of Holland keep on praying for us. We also ask that they take concrete steps in favor of the Church and the People of East Timor in their difficult hour.

With sentiments of great steem for the People of Netherlands, I remain

Yours sincerely,

+ Carlos Filipe X. Belo

Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo, SDB
Apostolic Administrator of Dili

DIOCESE DE DILI